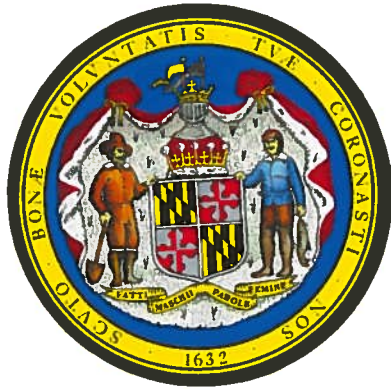


# The State of Maryland



## Proclamation

*From the Governor of the State of Maryland*

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS JANUARY 2021**

**WHEREAS,** *Human trafficking is a violent and often hidden crime involving the illegal exploitation of a person using force, fraud, or coercion, that can impact the safety and quality of life for all Marylanders from every walk of life; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Human trafficking is considered modern form of slavery and can take many forms; and*

**WHEREAS,** *There are thousands of human trafficking cases reported and many more go unreported every year; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Human trafficking is classified as a violent crime in the State of Maryland; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Maryland is committed to stopping human trafficking, and providing assistance to victims of labor and sex trafficking to protect their health, safety, and well-being.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim January 2021 as HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH, and do urge all citizens to support scheduled awareness events and programs as we work toward the elimination of human trafficking.**



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January  
Two Thousand and twenty-one

*Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.*  
Governor

*Byrd H. Lathrop*  
Lt. Governor

*John C. W. W. W.*  
Secretary of State